#### ALBANY.

THE REMOVAL BILL.

DICIARY FOR AMENDMENT-THE POWER OF SUS-PENSION PROBABLY TO BE SUBSTITUTED FOR THAT OF REMOVAL.

ALBANY, April 13 .- In the Schate this morning, directly after the reading of the journal, Mr. Robertson called up the special order of the day, the Removalbill, and asked that it be recommitted to the Judiciary Committee for amendment. Judge Robertson said that when the bill was reported from the Committee it was tacitly understood that the members were not bound to support it, as it was reported simply for the consideration of the Senate. A much desired purpose had been obtained, however, by its introduction in the Senate. in the full expression of public opinion upon the method proposed by it for the removal of public officers. As he read that opinion, it was that any officer who should perpetrate fraud, or who should permit frand to be perpetrated, should be temporarily suspended and removed from office when the charges against him are sustained. But no man, however wise and honest, should be trusted with the duty of trying and sentencing the offending officer. He desired to have the bill recommitted that it may be modified to suit the public opinions as presented in the public press.

The bill was accordingly so recommitted. The Judiciary Committee will hold a session to-morrow apon the subject, and will probably be able to report the bill back amended by Thursday. It is conceded that there is great peressity for baste, as the time for adjournment becomes imminent. The amendments to be suggested will include all those urged in the Committee originally, but the one which will most probably prevail will provide for giving the Governor power of immediate suspension (instead of re-moval) the charges to be sent before either a Commission to be constituted by the bill, or before the Senate, for trial. Judge Robertson said he had canvassed the Senate pretty closely and had become convinced that the bill in its present shape could not

CANAL AND OTHER LEGISLATION IN THE AS-SEMBLY.

SENATE AMENDMENTS TO REAPPROPRIATIONS FOR CANAL WORK CONCURRED IN-THE AMOUNTS AP-PROPRIATED FOR ORDINARY REPAIRS REDUCED-THE ACT FOR SUPPRESSING OBSCENE LITERATURE ORDERED TO A THURD READING-DEFEAT OF THE BILL TO PREVENT DISEASE AMONG ANIMALS-A NEW INFERIOR CRIMINAL COURT IN NEW-YORK

FROM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. ALBANY, April 13,-The Senate returned to-day the Assembly bill to reappropriate moneys for new work and extraordinary repairs on the canals, and for the payment of awards made by the Canal Appraisers, with several amendments. One of these is to reappropriate \$20,000 for completing and doubling the locks on the Western Division of the Erie Canal.

Another amendment is to reappropriate unexpended balances of any previous appropriations for work on the division, for which they were originally appropriated, to be paid upon resolution of the Canal

These amendments were concurred in by the As-

The Senate also sent down the bill making appropriations for ordinary repairs on the canals, with several amendments. One of these reduced the appropriation of \$1,100,000 for the three divisions of the canals to \$800,000-\$100,000 on each division. Another amendment appropriates \$150,000 to retrunk the upper and lower Mohawk aqueducts and to construct and repair the 16 locks on the Eastern Division of the Erie Canal. Another provides that the appropriations for the lateral canals shall not exceed twice the amount received from tolls on these canals. These amendments were also agreed to. Farmer legislators waxed very warm to-day over

the important bill for the prevention of the spread of contagious diseases among domestic animals. This bill was introduced by T. C. Campbell of New-York, and embodies the views of the State Agricultural Society, which, with Prof. Law, supplied strong arguments to the defenders of the bill. Whenever the bill has been brought up before, it has excited sharp talk, and to-day some very lively discussion was indulged in, several farmers opposing the bill strennonsly, on the ground that its provisions of the act are much too stringent. Gen. Husted ably defended the bill, and was aided by T. C. Campbell and others. Gen. Husted stated that the provisions of the proposed act are like those of the Connecticut. law on this subject, while Mr. Lincoln of Ontario and others declared that there is nothing practical in them. After some sharp speeches on both sides, the Committee reported progress on the bill. T. C. Campbell moved to disagree with the report of the Committee and order the bill to a third reading. This was lost, and the Committee was refused leave to sit again on the bill, which was thus smothered.

Mr. Prince afterward changed his amendment so as to leave the matter to the Commissioners of the Land Office. A long and animated discussion took place, but the bill was ordered to a third reading without amendment.

Mr. Waehner of New-York introduced a bill to create a new criminal court in New-York, with two ludges, to be nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the Board of Aldermen, who are to hold office for fourteen years and to have a salary of \$10,000. The court is to be known as the Central Criminal Court, and to have jurisdiction in all cases of misdemeanor and felony, except murder, arson, and forgery. Upon any vacancy occurring in the offices of the Judges of this Court, a indge is to be nominated by the Mayor and confirmed by the Board of Aldermen for the full term of 14 years. The Distriet-Attorney is authorized by this act to appoint an additional assistant to attend to the business of

Mr. Oakley introduced a bill to provide for the appointment of Commissioners to build a City Hall in Long Island City, authorizing the issue of \$60,000 in bends, payable one-tenth in each year, from 1880

Mr. Lawrence introduced a bill to-night which in effect permits any insurance company in other States to transact business in this State, if the capital stock of such company is not impaired. In cases where the stock is impaired the Superintendent of Insurance may give such permission. Mr. Wachner introduced a bill in relation to the jurisdiction of the Marine Court. It limits the jurisdiction of the Court to cases in which the claim does not exceed \$5,000, exclusive of costs, allowances, and interest.

THE CLOSING DISCUSSION ON CANAL LEGIS-LATION.

DEPATE IN THE ASSEMBLY ON VARIOUS CANAL BILLS -MR. DAVIS'S BILL PASSED TO A THIRD READ-

ING WITH AMENDMENTS. INT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBENE.

ALBANY, April 13 .- The House met to-night and passed the time mainly in discussion in Committee of the Whole on Canal Bills. The usual yearly Appropriation bill for the payment of awards of the Canal Appraisers was ordered to a third reading without any important amendment. Mr. Davis's relation to canals then came up. In the course of the debate upon it, Mr. McGuire again took occasion to insult a member who opposed his pro-Posed amendments. Mr. Prince somewhat vehemently objected to what he termed a use of contradictory terms in one section of the mill relating to the appointment of

stattifying itself by allowing such an

Cent contradiction to appear in the Sessions Laws.

would not continue his objection if it could be indicated on the margin of the published law that this contradictory section was offered by the gentleman from Che mung, and the other members of the Assembly should not be held responsible for it. At this,
Mr. McGuire lost his temper completely,
and replied—with a pointed emphasis which indicated
more than his words—that he was not in the habit of runcountry whenever he had offered an amendment to a bill; that he hoped he humbly and faithfully represented his constituency; that was glory enough for him

and he courted no musbroom notoriety. The general discussion of the bill developed no nev facts regarding canal matters, being mostly a repro-The only important amendments agreed to was one repenses from \$2,000 to \$1,000, and one providing that the State Engineer may remove engineers only for incompetency, misconduct or malversation in office. He proposed this as a compromise, as he thought there was a diversity of opinion as to the propriety of the engineer having the sole appointing power. The bill was ther ordered to a third reading.

Another bill appropriating \$300,000 to remove the wall benches on the Erie Canal, and \$150,000 for the same purpose of the Champlain Canal was also ordered to a

MISCELLANEOUS SENATH WORK. PASSAGE OF BILLS-DISCUSSION UPON THE STATE PRISON DISCIPIANE BILL.

FROM A REGULAR COMRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. ALBANY, April 13 .- The Assembly resolution for a sine die adjournment on April 23 was received in the Senate this morning and was laid on the table for one day under the rule. It will come up to-morrow for action but it is not apprehended that it will be concurred in The business of both Houses is in such a condition that members announce themselves disposed to thankfulues

if they get away by the 1st of May. Mr. Robertson, from the Judiciary Committee, reported the bill to amend the act relative to the Marine Court, with amendments providing that an appeal may be taken to the General Term of the Court of Common Pleas, as well as to the Supreme Court, from any order made by the General Term of the Marine Court.

The Senate proceeded early to the passage of bills, and those for the better prevention of abortions and other like offenses; for the construction of an armory and rifle range at Sing Sing; to facilitate the form cultural societies; to incorporate the Staten Island and making appropriations for the payment of the princips relative to the care and education of deaf mutes, were

The most interesting discussion of the day related to the bill to further improve the discipline in State prisons, the first section of which provides that, where a convict sentenced to imprisonment for life, shall have served 15 years of his sentence, and shall have been throughout that time peaceable and orderly, shall have committed tempt to escape, he shall be released. During the ten years succeeding his release he shall be upon what is termed "probation," and if in that time he shall lead an orderly life and not be again convicted of any misde or, he shall be restored to citizenship and his full rights. If, on the other hand, he should be convicted of any crime or misdemeanor during his probationary term, the usual penalties may be indicted, and the time when full pardon and citizenship may be restored to him shall

fting the term to 12 years, and stated that he did so after consultation with the members of various prison associans. The motion was lost. Mr. Gross made a motion to include also those convicts sentenced for 20 years or npward, which was agreed to. Several other amendments were made and the bill was ordered to a third reading. The evening session was dispensed with in order that Senators might attend the reception of the Rev. Dr. Halley of the Third Presbyterian Church in this occusion of the celebration of the riftieth anniversary of his postorship.

## VIEWS OF GOV. TILDEN.

PRODUCE EXCHANGE AND OTHER PUBLIC MEN-REPORM TO BE SOUGHT THROUGH THE MEASURES RECOMMENDED IN THE MESSAGE-THE INSPEC-TORS BILL AND THE RILL GIVING THE POWER OF SUMMARY REMOVAL OF CANAL OFFICERS PAYORED-OFFICIAL ACCOUNTABILITY THE GREAT QUESTION OF THE HOUR.

ALBANY, N. Y., April 13.—A leading mem-ber of the Produce Exchange called at the Executive mansion Monday evening and found there several public officers and public men. The Governor was asked his views in regard to some of the pending bills relating to canal reform. He still thinks the ideas of his specia message form the basis of the most expedient measures. These are the provisions intended to regulate the system of making camal contracts and canal expenditures; and

the two measures specifically recommended are:

First: The Inspectors' bill. The Governor is in favor f this bill as introduced by Mr. Daly in the Assembly and Mr. Lowery in the Senate. The object of that bill i publicity. It is intended to enable the people to know from time to time what is being done by the spending officers upon the public works, the canals, the State prisons, and the various buildings being creeted by the State. The Inspector will be an investigator to aid the Governor in making inquiry, and which it would be impossible for the Covernor to make in person. The information will be laid before the people. The fact of the existence of an official investigator will be a moral restraint on expenditures and abuses. Publicity is the life of free government. The investigator will have no governmental powers. He can do nothing but obtain information. As his information will be collected under the direction of the Governor, and, in the first instance, will be for his use in the discharge of his constitutional duties, it seems proper that the agent should be selected by and changed in the discretion of the Governor.

Second: Official accountability. The Governor's suggestions as to the legislation necessary to provide for offi cial accountability on the officers controlling Canal ex penditures are in his special message, of which the folwing is an extract:

lowing is an extract:

Another expedient worthy of your consideration is to enforce the accountability of the officers charged with the disbursements of the public money by a liability to summary removal or suspension. The Constitution, Article 10, Section 7, commands that provision shall be made by law for the removal for misconduct in office all officers, except judicial, whose prevers and duties are not local or legislative, and who shall be elected at general checkings and a lace for sumplying the varancies created all officers, except Judicial, whose pewers and duties are not local or legislative, and who shall be elected at general elections, and also for supplying the vacancies created by such removals. At the close of the session of the Convention of 1846, on the day before its final adjournment, it was discovered that, except in the case of the Treasurer, no provision had been mace for the removal of State officers having charge of public funds who had been made elective by the people of the whole State, the Convention not undertaking at so late a period to devise a system, devolved that duty on the Legislature. This power has remained 27 years unexcented. It is a duty of the Legislature which ought no longer to remain unperformed. Applied to the Canal Commissioners, who are agents not only in the application, but the custody and the disbursement of the public moneys, and the State Engineer, who with his subordinates excenses great power over the expenditures by his estimate of the cost and certificate of the performance of work, it would be an improvement upon our administrative system in accord with the intention of the Coostitation, with sound principles of government, and with the indications of experience.

This passage contains the only authentic expression of

This passage contains the only authentic expression of the Governor's opinions. It will be observed that he confines his recommendations to the Canal Compilssioners and the State Engineer. It is true that the Constitution contemplates some mode of removal to be applied to the other State officers. It is true that the State Inspectors are also spending officers and that the public feel great need of a remedy to be applied to them. The Governor, however, thinks that it might result that a different method would be applied to such State officers as the method would be applied to state State State, Attornby-General, and Controller, Secretary of State, Attornby-General, and Treasurer, and that there is nothing emergent about their cases. It was therefore his preference that the present bill should apply only to the Canal Commissioners and the State Engineer. The State Prison Inspectors might be included in the same bill, or left for other legislation. The mandate of the Constitution in respect to the sother State officers might be executed by a separate bill and on a different plan The Governor has not hesitated to express these ideas to such members of the Judiciary Committee and others who have consulted him. As to the mode of enforcing official accountability by suspension and removal, the Governor thinks that in respect to the spending officers when Mr. McGuire, with great heat, insisted on the pro-lessed amendment, Mr. Prince jocosely replied that he elent. The Constitution plainly contemplated

the one therein provided. The Governor is indifferent as to what high State officers constitute the tribunal t ove the spending officers, provided the system be simple, prompt, and effective, and be as unlike as po sible to the complicated dilatory and generally useless process of impeachment. He believe there should be a proper power of sus pension until the tribunal shall have acted So far from desiring to possess the power of supervision and removal, the Governor regards it as very undesirab to himself and to his successors. But it is his purpose neither to decline nor to seek such an invidious responsi bility. He knows that, as any vacancy would be filled by the people at the next succeeding election, there is no real power involved in the removal.

peachment that already existed. Various plans have been suggested. The framers of the Senate bill preferred

No ambitious Governor could desire to possess such a barren and offensive ambority. Patronage resides in the power of original appointment. The peculiar scheme of the Constitutions of 1821 and 1846 was to separate the power of appointment and removal, making the original choice by election and vesting a power of removal in the Governor or some other State authority. The device by which the conventions of 1821 the excation of this independent power of removal. Nothing is more absurd, therefore, than to set up the fact of an election as an objection to the existence of a mode of summary removal. Finally, the Governor says that the matter is new ; the minds of the people had not been brought to bear upon it when the Senate and Assembly were elected. He has deemed it his duty to suggest what he thinks to be the most useful measures, and h has acquitted himself of his duty. It now belongs to the

Legislature to take their share of the responsibilities. The Governor is of the opinion that whatever me the cause will not fail. It will gather new strength from temporary defeat. Many think that even if no reform measures are now passed, the discussion before the people during the coming Summer, with the de velopments which from time to time must disclose greater and wrongs than anybody is searching reform than would now be possible. The great question of the times is official accountability. tries, crushing taxation, and official frands and corrup capals, but will rapidly extend to all State, local, and municipal affairs. All administrations and all governments will come in review. The evils of misgovernment will for a long time occupy the public mind. Discussions by the press and people will lead to the passage of more ef fective and rigid laws for the suppression of abuses that can be hoped for at this time.

#### CANAL REFORM.

OPENING OF THE INVESTIGATION BY THE GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION. SESSIONS TO BE HELD IN SECRET-CONSULTA-

TIONS WITH CANAL OFFICIALS-A TOUR OF IN-SPECTION TO BE TAKEN.

ALBANY, April 13 .- The Governor's Commission held a meeting this morning, but, on account of the chaotic state of their plans of procedure, were unable to transact much business. They discussed modes and measures generally, and believe that they have arranged an order of business which will secure the best results at the earliest moment. Just what their plans are is un known, the Commission having concluded to hold their essions in secret. Mr. Bigelow says on behalf of th Commission that their duties will necessarily be of an inquisitorial character, and that publicity might retard or ners to-day visited several of the State officials, the Auditor of the Canal Department and the Canal Commi sioners, and received information relative to the methods of canal contracts. They will make a short excursion piece of work in the neighborhood, which has been commended to them as a sample of how a cenal contractor does not fill his contract. They will return in the evening

## THE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

CONVERSATION WITH A LEADING MEMBER OF THE EXAMINATION OF E. H. CROCKER, A CANAL EX-GINEER, AND JOHN D. FAY, AN EX-CANAL COM-MISSIONER-METHODS OF PREPARING ESTIMATES ANE CONTRACTS-PLANS BASED UPON CRUDE GUESSES-DOUBTFUL TIMENSACTIONS EXPLAINED. [BT TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBONE ]

ALBANY, April 13.-The Joint Legislative Committee of Investigation into canal frauds this after EXAMINATION INTO THE CASE-HOW THE FRAUDUnoon examined E. H. Crocker, who has been an engineer Hill, and has been in the State service 12 or 14 year in engineering positions. He was a rather timid and encertain witness and inclined to cloudiness and r luctance in his statements. A considerable number of men who had been summoned to appear before the comwere John D. Fay, formerly Canal Commissioner, and now Division Engineer; ex-Commissioners Barkley and Stroud, Messrs. Tubbs, Richardson, Kemble and Taylor, who have been employed on the causi as assistant engi neers. The most interesting point in Mr. Crocker's ex mination was his admission, repeated in various forms, that the estimates on which canal contracts are let are generally made in the office, and that often hardly a field-note is taken for them. It was drawn from the witness that these stimates in very many cases are made without the least purpos of settling the final costs of the work, but so as to fix a cost which would consume the first appropriation. Mr. Crocker was examined pretsy fully concerning one of Henry D. Denison's contracts for the removal of wall benches on the Eastern Division of the Eric Caual. The estimates for this contract, as the witness acknowledged, were all prepared in the office by John A. Cooper and himself, and not a field note was taken The original estimates were for \$84,645 and first appropriation was for \$00,000. In contract, 40,000 cubic yards of excavation were included. Mr. Crocker could give no satisfactory explanation as to the reason for fixing upon this number of yards. He said there were some bad places in the space covered by the contract, and he thought these extended right along. He could give no better account of the reasons for the item of 500 yards of rock excavations. The only means, he confessed, which were taken for judging the amount of work which should be done were the old cross sections. admitted that no distinction was made ween the earth which the contractor would use for embankment and that which would be wasted, and that the contractor often got pay in both ways, for excavation and embankment, for the same earth. When asked about the extent of his acquaintance with Mr. Denison, the centractor, Mr. Crocker, said that Mr. Denison was an occasiona visitor at his office. Mr. Crocker was also questioned about the contracts for the upper and lower side cut locks on the Eric Canal, at West Troy, which were taken by J. W. Boomer and Chas. J. Degraws and assigned to Willard Johnson, but the witness ap-peared to know little about these. He was then examined about James H. Sherrill's contract for building a stone dam across the Mohawk River, for which the esti mate was \$114,000, and the total outlay \$220,529. The difference between the estimate and the total cost in part was due, according to Mr. Crocker's extraordinary explanation, to this fact: The water, in falling over the wooden dam, which was just above the place where the stone dam was built, hollowed out a deep cavity, for which allow ance was not made in the estimates. Though It was the easiest thing in the world to measure the depth of the water. Even this first step doe not appear to have been taken to ascertain the extent of the cavity. The remainder of the differ ence was due, the witness said, to the carrying away of part of the work by freshets two or three times; and as this was not the fault of the contractor, it was thought just to reimburse him for these losses. After Croker's examination the Committee took a recess until

which was taken up with the examination of John D. Fay, ex-Canal Commissioner. If Mr. Fay was as shuffling and uncertain and confused in his official services as he was in his replies under examination to-night, he could not have been very valuable as a State officer. He appeared to have clear and positive ideas about nothing, and it took many questions, varied in form and forcibly pressed home, get any approach to satisfaction in an

### WASHINGTON.

MAIL-BAG FRAUDS.

FURTHER PARTICULARS OF THE METHODS BY WHICH THE GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN DEFRAUDED IN THE REPAIR OF MAIL-BAGS-POUCHES CUT AND MU-TILATED IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE EXPENSE OF REPAIRS-THE CONTRACTOR AT INDIANAPOLIS LEFT WITHOUT SUPERVISION.

Washington, April 13 .- Soon after the Post-

that considerable fraud was being perpetrated in the mat-ter of repairing mail-bags at the different mail-bag desettories. Having received an intimation that frauda lent transactions were going on at Indianapolis and St. Louis, and acting on the hint, hedispatched Special Agent derson to these points to make a thorough investiga-St. Louis depository, that the pouches, &c., are properly examined at the office when returned by the contractor making the repairs, and the repairs represented by th tag accompanying each pouch generally compare with the repairs actually made. The fraud is perpetrated in this way: Thomas Morrison, the contractor, directs his men to make the work average \$125 to the hundred pouches, and in order to do this they mus butcher them and then repair them until the desired is reached; perfect pouches have been cut and pacched in the most ridiculous manner; good bottoms have been cut out, straps cut off, bandles and staples eu off, and holes cut into them without limit. The total amount paid him by Government from May, 1874, to January 1, 1875, was \$7,454 05, and since the latter date about \$1,500. The amount charged for repairs was steadily on the increase, and Mr. Henderson thinks if not checked would have increased monthly. The substance of Mr. Henderson's report of his investigation of the mail-bag depository at Indianapolis, Indiana, is as follows: He found the work of repairing being done by one W. C. Mason, formerly a clerk in the Indianapolis Post-Office The work was given to him on the 6th of May, 1874 Prior to this the Government paid for the work in ques tion at the Indianapolis Depository on an average say of about \$500 per month, or about \$6,000 per year. Mason's predecessor was doing the same work it was customary for Mr. Holloway, superintendent of the office, to supervise the repairs by examining all the work done, and by comparing the charges on every pouch repaired with the tag representing what repairs were necessary the price, &c. This examination took up so much of his time that on consultation with the Postmaster it was con cluded to transfer this duty to a porter, one Edward Vickers by name. Vickers, it seems, attended to these duties during the month of May and part of June last year, but no longer, his excuse being that Mason, the contractor, told him he need not do it . that he (Mason) would do nothing but what was right. The monthly bills of the contractor in mediately began to increase materially, sometimes reaching \$2,000 per month, and recently the Postmuster at Ininstituted an investigation into the matter, which led to the late investigation by Special Agent Hen-

On being saked if he did not know Mason was over charging for his work, Vickers said he had had reason to think so, but did not positively know it.
On being asked by Special Agent Henderson why he

did not inform the Postmuster of his suspicions, he said he regarded it as none of his (Vickers's) business. Mr. Henderson ascertained that the charges for repairs averaged \$3 08 per hag, notwithstanding the fact that in many cases only slight repairs, a few stitches on a small patch, costing 10 or 25 cents, were needed on the pouches Mason charged the Government in three months, for 23,361 rivets, more than he had used or purchased in ten months, and had received for material, which cost him \$83 84, the sum of \$748 61, and so in regard to other items. To sum up, the total amount of material pur-May 6, 1874, cost him \$4.076. He charged the Post-Office Department, and received for the same \$18,448 45, or at the rate of about \$22,100 per year. That is to say, in ten months of \$14,372 45, which is about three times more than the sanual pay of a member of Congress, and nearly thrice as much as a member of the Cabinet receives. Subse queutly Mr. Henderson visited the repair shops, and took down and examined about 100 ponches which Mason said had been repaired. At least half of the bags in

# any consideration for his neglect of duty, but nevertheless recommends his removal.

spected showed no repairs whatever. Mr. Henderson says he cannot believe that Vickers received

United States Commissioner Ingersoll held an examina-tion in the case of James Van Vleck, who is charged with offering or giving, or causing to be offered or given, \$400 to Chester M. Colt to influence his action and to do an act in violation of his lawful duties, in order to assist Wm. C. Iddings and Patrick Laughlin to procure an awar of the contracts for carrying the mails, through fraudulent bids. Colt was made a witness in this case as States evidence. He said that several months ago Van Visck came to him and told him he wanted to introduce him to Kettle, and desired him to give to Kettle informa ion of the lowest bids for carrying the mails on ertain routes in Texas, saying to there were \$5,000 to be made in the transaction. The witness received \$400 from Kettle and furnished to Kettle what he believed to be the lowest bids, and Kettle, from this information, put in lower bids in the name of William C. Iddings and Patrick Laughlin. He was not positive that he slipped in the fraudulent bids, but he knew that two or three such bids were mixed with the genuine bids, so as to be considered by the Postmaster-General as bona fide bids.

Wm. D. Kettle having been sworn, said that about the 10th of Echemary be was introduced to Cole by Vice

General as bone lide bids.

Win. D. Kettle having been sworn, said that about the 10th of February he was introduced to Coit by Van Vleck. He made arrangements with Colt and Van Vleck to take four or five wine dinners with him at a restaurant, it was siter the second dinner that witness approached Coit on business. Colt afterward brought to him a book from the Post-Office Department, and showed him the amounts of the lowest bids on the margin. Witness thought from the figures that he could slip in two on three bids, and therefore he gave Colt first \$200 and paid him \$250 arterward. The witness said he put in these Texas bids in the name of Patrick Laughlin. He handed them to Channell, a clerk in the Department, who slipped them in among the genuine bids. He did not regard the money given to Colt as a loan.

District Attorney Fisher showed to the witness the bids for routes in Texas—nine or ten in number—three of which the witness said were genuine, the remainder being fraudulent, and on these he obtained awards; witness let Van Vleck have \$90 dollars as a loan, \$20 of which he returned. He did not say anything about money to Van Vleck at the time he songht an introduction to Colt; the latter wanted \$600 of him; he mentioned

## VICE-PRESIDENT WILSON.

HIS ATTENDANCE AND A HISTORICAL ADDRESS EX-PECTED AT THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE PENNSYLVANIA ABOLITION SOCIETY TO-DAY -MR. WILSON'S PROPOSED TRIP TO EUROPE ABANDONED.

FROM A REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE. WASHINGTON, April 13 .- The Vice-President

will leave here to attend the centennial anniversary of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, which will take place to-day. The Vice-President, in accepting the invitation to participate in the celebration, also consented to make speech on the growth, progress, and triumph of the inles advocated by the abolition societies in the American colonies, and subsequently in the United The Vice-President states that his investigations substantiate the claim of the Pennsylvania Abelition Society, that it is the oldest society of this character in the world. Through its entire nistory a large proportion of its members have been Quakers. Though founded in April 14, 1775, its work was practically suspended during the War of the Revolution, attention of the people of Pennsylvania then being mainly engressed in the struggle for independence. The lice-President states that after the war, however, its work was revived, the most active part of its career be ginning in 1784. Benjamin Franklin about that time was its President, and later Benjamin Rush a leading menber. In 1700 the Society addressed a memorial to Con gress useing action in favor of the elevation and amelio ration of the black race. For the next half century it employed every means of aiding the negro. After the passage of the Fugitive Slave law, in 1850, the Society was particularly energetic in assisting fugitive above levoting its labors to the Southern burders of Pennsylvathis society and its representatives, fagitive claves were lerity. nia, along the Maryland line. Through the agency of

dent said that after conversation with his friends he had been persuaded to abandon his proposed trip to Europe Principally among these was ex-Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania, who convinced him that it was contrary public scutiment for either the President er terms of office. Upon looking into the matter, be discovered that none of his predecessors had left the country under similar circumstances. In the case of

1852, at the time of his election he was in feeble health and compelled to seek relief in the soft climate of Cuba-When the time arrived for him to take the outh of office he was still at Havana. The constitutional cath was administered by the American Consul at that port. IN King returned to his plantation in April of the next yes and died the day after his arrival. Vice-President Wil-son, not anxious to establish the precedent, bas telegraphed to Mr. Drexel, of Philadelphia, to cancel his ticket for passage secured for the 28th. The Vice-President will start for California in about two weeks.

assisted beyond the reach of capture. The Vice Presi-

#### LAND GRANT RAILROADS.

PINION OF THE CONTROLLER THAT LAND GRANT RAILROADS, EXCEPTING THOSE INDEBTED TO THE GOVERNMENT ON ACCOUNT OF BONDS, MAY RE-CRIVE PAYMENT FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF

TROOPS. WASHINGTON, April 13 .- The following offirial correspondence shows the construction placed by the War Department upon certain acts of Congress relating to payments of money to certain Pacific Railroads for transporting troops or property of the United States:

WAR DEPARTMENT, QUARTERMASTER-GEN'L'S OFFICE, }
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 19, 1875. }
To the Honorable Secretary of War-Sir: The law making appropriations for the support of the army for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1876, and for other purposes, approved March 3, 1875, provides "that no money shall hereafter be paid to any railroad company for the transportation of any property or troops of the United States over any railroad which, in whole or in part, was constructed by the aid of a grant of public land on the sondition that such railroad should be a public highway for the use of the Government of the United States, free from toll or other charge, or upon any other condition,

states over any rainroad which, in whole or in part, was constructed by the aid of a grant of public laid, was constructed by the aid of a grant of public laid, was constructed by the aid of a grant of public laid, way for the use of the Government of the United States, free from toil or other charge, or upon any other condition, for the use of such road for such transportation, provided that the foregoing restriction shall not apply for the current iscal year, nor thereafter, to roads where the sole condition of transportation is that the sompany shall not charge the Government higher rates than they do individuals for like transportation, and when the Quarter master-General shall be satisfied that this condition has been faithfully compiled with."

A similar provision, with the exception of the proviso quoted, and the fact that the prodibition applies only to the appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, was inserted in the act making appropriations for the support of the army for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1875, approved June 16, 1874. That ha was ronstrued by the Attorney General as applying to all railroads that had received grants of public lands upon any conditions whatsoever for the use of such roads, and enhanced all railroads known as land grant railroads and the Utah Central Entiroad, which railroad what a first on he a hand grant railroad within the meaning of the act of Jan. 16, 1874. An examination of the choice of land grant railroad, which railroad what are received grants of land or controller of the Treasury, and 14, 1873, not to be a hand grant railroad within the meaning of the act of Jan. 16, 1874. An examination of the choice of land grant railroads, published in General actions of the choice of land grant railroads, published in General Reinroad spath are received grants of land on conditions of one that the company shall not charge. These roads are: The Atlantic and Pacific, the Douver Pacific, we Kanasa Pacific, line Northern Pacific of California, main line; the Cen

the appropriations or the current payment to those roads for above named, so as to permit payment to those roads for services that have been rendered, or that may be ren-dered, during the current fiscal year.

Of course it is understood that the act of March 3,

services that have been rendered, or that may be rendered, during the current fiscal year.

Of course it is understood that the act of March 3, 1873, prohibiting payment to certain roads indebted to the United States for interest upon bends of the United States, issued to said companies, is still in force. I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

Quartermasier-General, Brevet Major-Scineral U. S.A.

WAR DEFARTMENT, March 23, 1875.

Respectfully referred to the Second Controller of the Treasury for opinion.

H. T. Crosmy, Chief Clerk.

Respectfully returned to the Secretary of War, with the remark that affer examination of the statutes of Congress relating to the land grant railroads, I concur with the view expressed by the Quartermaster-General in his report to the Secretary of War, dated March 12, 1875; First, that the enumerated railroads are excepted from the prohibitions, as contained in the acts of June 16, 1874, and June 20 and 22, 1874; and, second, that the act of March 3, 1875, no longer operates to prohibit payment for the current fiscal year to those railroads where the sole condition of transportation is that the company "shall not charge the Government higher rates than they do individuals for like transportation is that the company do individuals for like transportation is the Appropriation act of March 3, 1875, its understood that the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1874, and ending June 30, 1875, is meant. The act of March 3, 1873, is used ending June 30, 1875, is meant. The act of March 3, 1873, as the Quartermaster-General remarks, is let in full torce in respect of the Pacific Railroads indebted on account of United States bonds.

J. M. Brobillean, Controller.

#### CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL. THE BACK PAY ACCOUNT.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 13, 1875. It seems that there are still a few members

of Congress who are sailing under false colors on the sub-ject of the back pay, or "salary grab" act. On the fourth pay law, all those entitled to receive pay under this act, with very few exceptions, had either drawn out and con verted it to their own use or had covered it into the Treasury. As the Sergeant-at-Arms had no certificate agned by John B. Hay of Illinois, the amount that would be due him had not then and never has since been drawn out of the saiary fund of the Treasury. The amounts due s. W. Kellogg and Wm. H. Barnum were drawn from the salary fund and remained on the books of the Sergeantat-Arms, subject to such disposition as these gentlemen num was covered into the Treasury March 30, 1875. The num was covered into the Treasury March 30, 1875. The amount due Geo. C. McKee of Mississippi was drawn from the salary fund in the usual manner, and has remained upon the books of the Sergeant-at-Arms, subject to the order of that gentleman. Thus it will be seen that the pay of only four has remained undisposed of during the past year, and that of two of those have yet to be drawn and coverad into the Treasury to close up the entire back-pay account. As Mr. Kellough has often declared that he had never touched the money, it is presumed that he intended to instruct the Sergeant-at-Arms to turn it into the Treasury. into the Treasury. RIDS FOR STATIONERY.

Bids were opened at the Treasury Departnent this morning by A. L. Sturtevant, Chief of Stationery Division, to furnish the Department, Custom-houses ternal Revenue offices, Lighthouses, Steamboat Inspec tors, Revenue Marine officers, Assistant Treasurers, ar designated depositaries with stationery for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1875. There were 17 bidders from Washington, Philadelphia, New-York, Springfield, and South Hadley Falls, Mass. The contracts will be and south Hadley rains, Mass. The contracts will be awarded about the latter part of the week. Over \$100,000 worth of stationery will be required for the Department and the various offices mentioned. The Committee to examine the bids and award the contracts consists of Col. W. Hemphill Jones of the First Controller's office, H. C. Rogers, Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, and J. K. Leaver of the First Auditor's office.

DEMOCRATIC VICTORY IN ALBANY COUNTY. ALBANY, N. Y., April 13 .- The Democrats arried the election to-day in this city by over 400 majority, electing their candidate for Justice of the Justices ourt, both the members of the Board of Public Instruction and 9 of the 16 Supervisors in the city.

Reports from the county towns indicate a large Deme eratic majority in the Board of Supervisors. Senator Dayton, Democrat, was reclected Supervisor from the bown of Watervijet yesterday by a largely increased ma-

## PRICE FOUR CENTS. FOREIGN NEWS.

THE BRITISH PARLIAMENT.

MOTION PAVORING THE WITHDRAWAL OF SHEAT BRITAIN EROM THE DECLARATION OF PARIS-THE LAW AGAINST BEARING ARMS IN IRRIAND NOT TO APPLY TO AMERICANS TARING PART IN THE INTERNATIONAL RIPLE MATCH.

In the House of Commons to-night Capt Ballie-Cochrane moved that in the opinion of the House the International Code Conference, to meet at St. Petersburg, affords a favorable opportunity for England to withdraw her agreement to the Declaration

Mr. Bourke, Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, spoke against the motion. He declased England could not honorably withdraw from that Declaration without the consent of the other parties who signed it. Her relinquishment of the right to seize enemy's goods on a neutral vessel was doubtless a great concession. But England was a gainer by the abolition of privateering and in other respects. He thought the revival of this question tended to no good result. On the contrary, it was likely to raise other grave issues, and if persisted in would render England liable to the charge of breach of faith. The motion was rejected by a vote of 36 Yeas to 261

In the House of Commons this evening Mr. Sullivan, member for Louth, wanted to know whether the law in regard to the bearing of arms in Ireland would in any way interfere with the American rifle men who are coming to Ireland to thke part in the

Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, Chief Secretary for Ireland, replied that all classes would heartily welcome the American team this Summer. The gentlemen from the United States who were to take part in the competition were undoubtedly law-abiding citizens. There was no reason to suppose that they would break the law, or be any more likely to render themselves liable to arrest than Scotchmen or English

Mr. Sullivan insisting upon a positive assurance so that there might be no misapprehension, the Chief Secretary replied that there would be no interference with the visitors, because it was well understood that they had no intention of breaking the law; but, if necessory, a special arrangem would be made to secure their entire freedom of movement and exemption from the formal operation

QUESTION OF A BREACH OF PRIVILEGE-THE PRINT-ERS OF TWO LONDON JOURNALS SUMMONED BE-FORE THE BAR OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS. LONDON, Tuesday, April 13, 1875.

The London Times and Daily News, baving recently published certain documents which had been submitted to a select committee of Parliament on South American bubble loans, a motion was introduced summoning the printers of those journals to the bar of the House to answer for breach of privilege. The motion met with much opposition, but, after a long debate on the liberty and responsibility of the press,

INTERNATIONAL WEIGHTS AND MEASURES. MEETING OF A DIBLOMATIC CONFERENCE AT VARIS -AN INTERNATIONAL BUREAU TO BE ESTAB-

Panis, Tuesday, April 13, 1875. The Diplomatic Conference upon the metrical

system of weights and measures met here yesterday The Governments of Brazil, the United States, Venezuela, and the Argentine Republic are represented. It was resolved to establish an International Bureau of Weights

AFFAIRS IN VENEZUELA. PORTS CLOSED TO TRADE-COUNTER CLADMS PRE

SENTED AGAINST HOLLAND. HAVANA, April 13. - Advices from La Guayra to the 12th of April have been received. Tranquility prevailed throughout Venezuela. The ports of Lavela de Coro and Maracaibo have been closed to moports and exports by the Government, and a new port has en established at Puerto Cabello, where vermerchandise for and from the former ports will be en-

It is reported that Venezuela has presented counter claims against those of Holland. When the Dutch fleet now cruizing in the West ladies visited La Guayra there were rumors of its sinister intentions, and troops and were concentrated there. B sions of the Venezuelaus were allayed by the exchange of the usual salutes and the departure of the fleet.

## A NEW RUSSIAN LOAN.

The Rothschilds have issued the prospectus n a new Russian loan of £15,000,000, with interest at 44g per cent per annum, to be issued at 42. Of the total amount, £1,000,000 are offered for subscription in Lon-don; the remainder is reserved for St. Petersburg.

RELIGIOUS ORDERS TO BE PROHIEFFED IN PRUSSIA.

BERLIN, Tuesday, April 13, 1975. The Berlin Post says that the draft has been completed of a bill prohibiting religious orders in l'aussia,

except those employed in nursing the sick.

QUEBEC, April 13.-Navigation may now be aid to be fairly opened.

LONDON, April 13.—Dispatches from Bombay

announce that the choiera has appeared in the Province of Oude. MONTREAL, Ont., April 13 .- It is stated by telegram from Ottawa this morning that, as a result of Mr. Redputh's representations to the Government, the duties on raw sugars of No. 13 and under have been re-duced to 25 cents per 100 pounds.

In Peru Mr. Meiggs has claimed \$15,000,000 from the Government as due on railroad contracts, and has suspended work until the claim is settled. Congress offered to give him grano for half the amount, but he re-fused to take it. The latest report was that work would soon be resumed with about half the force previously em-

LONDON, April 13 .- The report in the Paris newspaper L'Union yesterday that the Pope had made to the Emperor Francis Joseph, through the Patrurch el Venice, a strong remonstrance against the oppression of the Church in Germany, and that the Emperor had

MONTREAL, Ont., April 13 .- In the libel suit of Crooks, the Treasurer of the Ontario Government, against The Mail newspaper, tried before Mr. Justice against the jury last night returned a verdiet for it plaintiff, giving damages for 20 cents. The surf are from an article alleging that Crooks had, by a course intrigue not of the most reportable kind, constituted his self Solicitor of the Colonial Trust Company.

PANAMA, April 4.-The news from Peru to the 29th of March last is to the effect that a bill was discussed in the Sepate with reference to guano. Its chief provisions are that several contracts shall be made for separate markets, and that the sales shall amount to 650,000 tons per annum, at £5 10s. per ton at least, the contracts to be for four years. There are still rumors of immense discoveries of guano having been made in the football.

PANAMA, April 4.-Telegrams from Buenos Ayres, dated March 3, announce that up to that time the Jesuit College was entirely destroyed by fire. Some of the ringleaders in the crime had been captured. Only three of the priests are known to have died. The Arch three of the priests are known to have died. The Arch-bishop had returned to the town, and the whole of the papers were recommending his instant resignation. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, in an account sent to the le-gations abroad, says: "The mob was headed by a span-ish priest named Romero Jimenez, and. It is said, by one Huya of La Boca. The number of killed does not exceed four, no priest being among them; there are, however, some priests wounded. The details by Gen. Gainza are false."

PANAMA, April 4.- The approaching election for President of the Union is looked forward to with some anxlety. The election struggle will be severer out-side of the capital. Here in Panama the inclination of the people within the walls (the city proper) seems to be for Dr. Nuñez, and the Ultra-Liberal party, consisting chiefly of the people in the subarbe, have declared for the Government candidate, Sanor Pavya. The State Government here is pretty well prepared for any comp